

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2006 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

PREPARATION

"How much nonsense there is in the annual campaign to 'put Christ back into Christmas!' Christ is IN Christmas already and has been from the beginning, and therefore our responsibility lies in getting him into ourselves, in recovering somehow that dynamic secret without which the first Christmas would have been the last."
-Donald Macleod

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please sign the friendship pads as they are distributed)
(If you have a prayer request, please fill out a prayer request card and pass it to the end of the pew during the opening hymn.)*

PRELUDE

Noel Joyeux	-Young
The Shepherd Pipe	-Martin
Meditation on Silent Night	-Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. The grace of God has come to save us.

All: For our sakes, God sent the child of Bethlehem. For our salvation, Jesus came to live among us.

Leader: Let all people sing for joy and give thanks. Tell the world what God has done in our midst.

All: God has called and chosen us to hear good news. God's marvelous works are new every day.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth to all who please God.

All: We seek to honor God in this time of worship. We want to see for ourselves what God has done.

Leader: Let us worship the newborn King!

♪ ♪ ***HYMN** 41 O Come, All Ye Faithful

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

-The Wright Family

*All who are able may stand

PRAYER (all together)

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way before us, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***RESPONSE** Advent Song vs. 5

Light the Christmas candles, now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow; birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring. Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night; candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all together)

God of the commonplace, we confess that we have been impressed by power and authority. We do not expect to meet you in the poor of the land, in cold barns, or on lonely duty watches. We are slow to hear the angels or to embrace the "good news of great joy." We hesitate to leave our chosen tasks to share in your larger purposes. We settle for idols of material security even as you thrust us into the battles of life, where we have nothing on which to rely other than our faith in you. Forgive our lack of trust. Renew us in the Holy Spirit, we pray. Hear now our silent confessions.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

***RESPONSE** 23 *Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1 and refrain)*

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(Please extend the Peace of Christ to one another)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM

Christmas Fanfare

-Young

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9: 2-7

SECOND READING: Titus 2: 11-14

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2: 1-20

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

-Rev. Debra Wright

♪ ♪ ***HYMN** 25 *Away in a Manger*

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all together)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING OF GIFT AND SELF

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY FOR CHRISTMAS

**Praise God whose dawn prefigures night,
Whose Daystar shines for us on high,
Whose Spirit brings into our sight,
The hope which to our world draws nigh. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (all together)

Thank you, God, for coming to us in a human life so expressive of love that two thousand years have not extinguished the flame. May that love burn so brightly in our lives that its fires will spread. Use our offerings to ignite in the world such caring and compassion that all your children may know joy and peace. Amen.

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

♪ ♪ **HYMN** 60 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

PRAYER (candles extinguished after Pastor's prayer)

♪ ♪ ***HYMN** 40 *Joy to the World!*

***CHARGE**

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** 31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing vs. 1*
♪ ♪ (all singing)

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

POSTLUDE *When Christ Was Born On Earth* -Warner
(The congregation treats the postlude as its closing time of worship and leaves after it is completed.)

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Usher: Tim Miller
Layreader: Richard Jones
Greeters: Craig, Stephanie & Kristen Wright

**Best Wishes for a Happy & Holy
Christmas & Christmas Season**